

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 102000Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6841

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, HA

SUBJ: SECRETARY FOURCAND'S COMMENTS ON CABINET CHANGES.

1. DURING CALL AUGUST 10 BY EMBOFF TO DISCUSS EDIBLE OIL IMPORT PROBLEM (SEPTTEL), COMMERCE SECRETARY FOURCAND FREELY COMMENTED ON SIGNIFICANCE OF PREVIOUS NIGHT'S CABINET CHANGES. HE STATED THAT REPLACEMENT OF FINANCE SECRETARY FRANCISQUE BY EMMANUEL BROS, FORMER FINANCE DIRECTOR GENERAL, WAS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE AND SIGNALLED GOH DESIRE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTORS, ESPECIALLY U.S. HE SAID GOH IS DETERMINED TO RESPECT ITS OBLIGATIONS TO PRIVATE SECTOR AND DETERMINED TO AVOID FURTHER INVESTMENT PROBLEMS. ALTHOUGH UNSTATED, FOURCAND'S CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT FRANCISQUE HAD BEEN DROPPED BECAUSE HE BADLY MISHANDLED THOSE PROBLEMS IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. FOURCAND SAID OTHER CABINET-LEVEL CHANGES WERE SIMPLY "DEMOCRATIC ROTATION" OF THE OFFICES WITHOUT PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE.

3. COMMERCE SECRETARY TOOK OCCASION IN DISCUSSING REPLACEMENT OF FRANCISQUE TO PRAISE BROS HIGHLY, CHARACTERIZING HIM AS "STRAIGHTFORWARD, HONEST, COMPETENT AND COURAGEOUS." HE SAID BROS IS QUITE
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ABLE TO SAY NO WHEN NECESSARY BUT IS PERSON WHO KEEPS

HIS WORD AND DOES NOT ENGAGE IN "MANEUVERS." FOURCAND
ALSO STATED THAT BROS IS A PERSON HE AND NATIONAL BANK
PRESIDENT ANTONIO ANDRE CAN WORK WITH.

4. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE AT COMMERCE DEPARTMENT MORNING
OF AUGUST 10, JUST BEFORE INSTALLATION CEREMONY AT
PALACE, WAS ONE OF EXCITEMENT, ALMOST JUBILATION.
FOURCAND UNDERSTANDABLY EXUDED CONFIDENCE AND PERSONAL
OPTIMISM AT FRANCISQUE'S DEPARTURE FROM GOVERNMENT.
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